SPORTS

To pull out of funk, Chiefs say they must stick together 1B

IN DEPTH

Pixar's latest masterpiece, 'Coco,' brims with life and color 8A

VOLUME 138, No. 66
STAY CONNECTED KANSASCITY.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/KANSASCITYSTAR
TWITTER.COM/KCSTAR

KEEPING YOU CONNECTED

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 22 2017

$2

Mostly sunny 44°/23° See 6B

THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

KANSASCITY.COM

JOHN SLEEZER jsleezer@kcstar.com

Missouri freshman Michael Porter Jr. (13) played just two minutes in four games.

COMMENTARY

More to Mizzou basketball than Porter madness

BY VAHE GREGORIAN
vgregorian@kcstar.com

Please repeat after me: There are no such things as jinxes, hexes, ghosts or cartoonish black clouds looming with personalized curses for select targets.

Honest.

But, boy, are there coincidences — even if some say there is no such thing as those, either.

So it is that as of Tuesday, the University of Missouri somehow added to an already remarkable portfolio of rotten, inexplicable and soul-crushing quirks that underscore its athletics history by absorbing yet another kick in the teeth.

At last clarifying the mystery of why would-be basketball program savior Michael Porter Jr. had played just two minutes in four games this season, MU announced Porter was about to undergo surgery in Dallas for a "microdiscectomy of the L3-L4 spinal discs."

SEE GREGORIAN, 13A

MORE INSIDE
Missouri's Michael Porter Jr. likely will miss the rest of the season. 1B

Greitens set back in effort to fire education leader

File photos

Gov. Eric Greitens has been applying pressure to remove Education Commissioner Margie Vandeven.

BY JASON HANCOCK AND MARÁ ROSE WILLIAMS
jhancock@kcstar.com
mdwilliams@kcstar.com

JEFFERSON CITY

Missouri's education commissioner survived a vote Tuesday by the state Board of Education to fire her at the bidding of Gov. Eric Greitens.

The board voted 4-4 on the firing, meaning Education Commissioner Margie Vandeven keeps her job — at least for now. The board is to meet again on Dec. 1.

Greitens appointees Eddy Justice, Doug Russell, Sonny Jungmeyer and Jennifer Edwards voted for the leadership change. A fifth Greitens appointee, Claudia Oñate Greim of Kansas City, joined with three board members who were not appointed by Greitens to oppose the firing.

Greim could not immediately be reached for comment.

Vandeven, in an email to media, said, "I look forward to the focus returning to educating

SEE EDUCATION, 9A

KEITH MYERS kmyers@kcstar.com

The aging Buck O'Neil Bridge, formerly known as the Broadway Bridge, crosses the Missouri River near the Wheeler Downtown Airport.

Could tolls return to the Buck O'Neil Bridge?

BY ROBERT A. CRONKLETON
bcronkleton@kcstar.com

As Kansas City scrambles to replace the aging Buck O'Neil Bridge downtown, city leaders are considering tolls or a new sales tax to pay for a new bridge.

The city has looked at different scenarios, but city leaders think a toll or other tax offers the city the best opportunity to raise the money it needs in the time needed.

"Between the tolling option and the taxing option, that will be our next step to really figure out which is the best option to pursue," Kansas City Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner said Tuesday.

It's estimated it will cost $200 million to replace the bridge, which connects the Northland with downtown and beyond. While Missouri Department of Transportation has offered up to $100 million in matching funds, Kansas City needs to secure the rest.

Tolls on the bridge are not new. The steel-truss structure opened in 1956 as a toll bridge run by the city.

The toll generated nearly $40 million before it ended in 1991 — at which time the toll was 25 cents a car. The city transferred ownership of the bridge to MoDOT in 1992.

If a new toll is created, the city hasn't decided how much it would be, but it has been looking at various amounts.

The city's efforts to raise its portion to fund a new bridge got

SEE BRIDGE, 13A

LOCAL

MAN CONFESSES TO DETECTIVE

Orval L. Johnson tells an undercover detective that he killed Ricky Boswell during a drug deal, federal court documents say. 5A

LOCAL

SHELTER DIRECTOR TO LEAD DCF

Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, right, selects Gina Meier-Hummel to lead the state's troubled Department for Children and Families. 4A

BUSINESS

FCC TO REPEAL NET NEUTRALITY RULES

The FCC announces that it plans to dismantle landmark regulations that ensure equal access to the internet. 7A

CUSTOMER SERVICE
To subscribe or report delivery issues,
877-962-7827 or kansascity.com/customer-service

Business	6-7A
Classified	5B
Comics	6D
Lotteries	2A
Obituaries	13-15A
Opinion	16-17A
Puzzles	5B, 7-8D
Sports	1B
TV	8D

7 04113 01050 4